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**INTERIM REPORT  
of  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MUNICIPAL ACT  
AND RELATED ACTS**

**November 23rd, 1961.**



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MEMBERS OF THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND RELATED ACTS

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Hollis E. Beckett, Q.C., Chairman .....	York East
Rheal Belisle .....	Nickel Belt
Alfred H. Cowling .....	High Park
Arthur Evans .....	Simcoe Centre
George T. Gordon .....	Brantford
Donald H. Morrow .....	Ottawa West
Ron. K. McNeil .....	Elgin
Vernon M. Singer .....	York Centre
Thomas D. Thomas .....	Oshawa

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(Mrs.) H. G. Rowan .....	Secretary to the Committee
R. B. Andrews .....	Assistant Secretary to the Committee



To The Honourable  
The Legislative Assembly of  
The Province of Ontario

Parliament Buildings  
Toronto, Ontario.  
November 23rd, 1961.

Honourable Members:

On Monday, March 27th, 1961, during the Second Session of the Twentieth-sixth Parliament, the following motion was moved by The Honourable Leslie M. Frost, Q.C., Prime Minister of Ontario and seconded by The Honourable Wm. K. Warrender, Q.C., and duly carried:

"Ordered, That a Select Committee of this House be appointed to enquire into and review The Municipal Act of the Province and related Acts, including The Assessment Act, The Department of Municipal Affairs Act, The Local Improvement Act, The Ontario Municipal Board Act and The Planning Act, and the regulations made thereunder, for the purposes of modernizing, consolidating and simplifying such Acts and regulations and making such recommendations as may be necessary for their improvement.

And That the Select Committee have authority to sit during the interval between Sessions and have full power and authority to call for persons, papers and things and to examine witnesses under oath, and the Assembly doth command and compel attendance before the Committee of such persons and the production of such papers and things as it may deem necessary for any of its proceedings and deliberations, for which purpose the Honourable the Speaker may issue his warrant or warrants.

And that the said Committee consist of nine members, as follows:

Mr. Beckett (Chairman), Messrs. Belisle, Evans, Cowling, Gordon, Morrow, McNeil, Singer and Thomas.

Mrs. H. G. Rowan was appointed Secretary to the Committee and Mr. R. B. Andrews was appointed Assistant Secretary.






The Committee held its first meeting on April 19th followed by sixteen meetings all held in the City of Toronto.

The General Index in Volume 5 of The Revised Statutes of Ontario 1960, lists under The Municipal Act, Volume 3, Chapter 249, forty-two related Acts including The Assessment Act, The Department of Municipal Affairs Act, The Local Improvement Act, The Ontario Municipal Board Act and The Planning Act.

On May 11th a letter was sent to the clerk of each municipality stating the terms of reference submitted by the Legislature to this Committee. It was requested that the clerk transmit this information to the persons etc. who might wish to present a brief or submissions, e.g., municipal council, other elected and appointed bodies, senior officials etc.

Thirty-one briefs or submissions have been received from municipalities and thirty from other organizations or individuals and we have been informed that several more will be submitted.

The Committee has reviewed The Municipal Act, The Department of Municipal Affairs Act, The Assessment Act, The Planning Act and The Local Improvement Act with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Assessment Commissioner of Metropolitan Toronto and the officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs; The Ontario Municipal Board Act with the Chairman of The Ontario Municipal Board; The Highway Improvement Act with the Municipal Engineer, Municipal Roads Branch, Department of Highways; The



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Conservation Authorities Act with the Director and Chief Conservation Engineer, Conservation and Parks Branch, Department of Commerce and Development; and The Voters' Lists Act with the Clerk of the Legislature.

The majority of the briefs and submissions filed have been read and discussed by the Committee. Several of the briefs and submissions received from different organizations referred to provisions of The Assessment Act regarding business assessment. The Committee felt that information should be obtained from the municipalities setting out the particulars of the business tax levied. About four hundred municipalities have replied to the questionnaire giving the Committee the required information.

The Committee wishes to thank the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Assessment Commissioner of Metro and senior civil servants who have attended meetings and assisted in the understanding of the various Acts.

The terms of reference of the Committee stated ".....to enquire into and review The Municipal Act of the Province and related Acts,..... and the regulations made thereunder, for the purposes of modernizing, consolidating and simplifying such Acts and regulations and making such recommendations as may be necessary for their improvement."

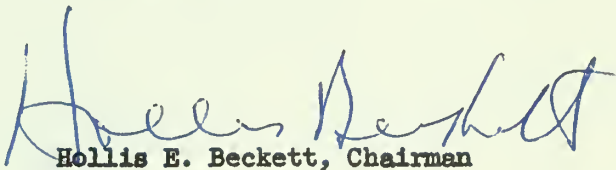
The Prime Minister said on January 24th, 1961, when he introduced the notice of motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into and review The Municipal Act and related Acts of the Province".....the review of The Municipal Act and



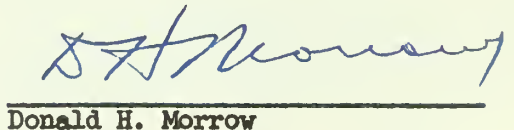
related Acts is a huge task which will involve a very considerable time, very probably a number of years."

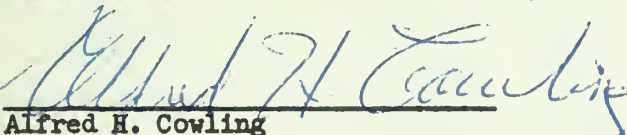
It is the considered opinion of the Committee that public meetings should be held at which all organizations or persons who have submitted a written submission be invited to appear in support of the submission filed and that those who have not heretofore made submissions be given the opportunity of appearing and offering constructive criticism.

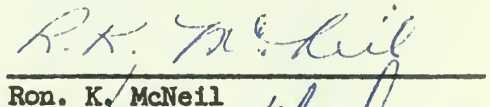
Because the field assigned is so extensive your Committee has not had time to complete its review of the legislation referred to it or to discuss the recommendations made with the authors of the briefs and submissions filed. The Committee therefor requests that its existence be extended in accordance with terms of reference of the resolution establishing this Select Committee.

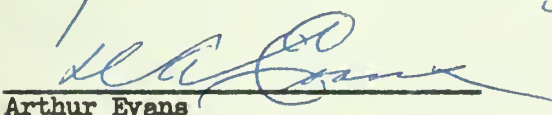
  
Hollis E. Beckett, Chairman

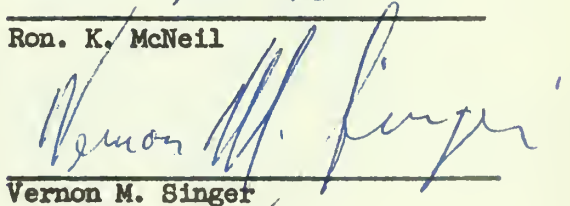
  
Rheal Belisle

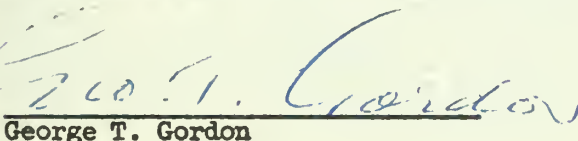
  
Donald H. Morrow

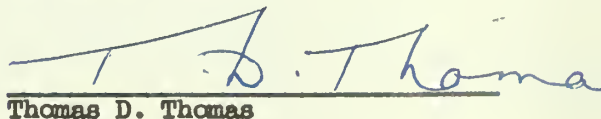
  
Alfred H. Cowling

  
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